

TEXAS LAWYER

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LEGAL AWARDS
2025



ENERGY ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR FINALIST



Justin Stolte, partner with Latham & Watkins, is among the finalists for Texas Lawyer's 2025 Energy Attorney of the Year Award. Read a Q&A with him below.

How have recent shifts in energy policy, both at the state and federal level, affected your practice, and how do you help clients adapt to these changes?

Through the years, I have prioritized building a practice that is both strategic and adaptable, evolving with client demands across energy sub-sectors and practice areas. Under the first Trump administration, my work was heavily focused on traditional energy, particularly oil and gas, where I guided clients through major upstream and midstream M&A transactions and project development matters. The policy emphasis on domestic energy production, coupled with streamlined permitting and export approvals, created significant opportunities—and my experience as

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a petroleum engineer at Chevron and later in business development at Apache gave me a unique perspective in advising clients.

When the Biden administration took office, my practice pivoted toward the energy transition, as clients increasingly focused on decarbonization and leveraging Inflation Reduction Act incentives in areas such as low-carbon fuels, CCUS, and renewables. That shift proved highly valuable, allowing me to work on some of the largest transactions in the energy transition space. Around the same time, I became global chair of Latham's energy and infrastructure group, where I emphasized an "all-of-the-above" approach across energy sectors, helping ensure that our 650-plus-lawyer team solidified its position as the global leader in the energy and infrastructure space.

Today, with policy again tilting toward traditional energy even while many clients remain committed to transition initiatives, my practice spans both. We have advised on some of the largest oil and gas transactions in the past year, while also leading on many marquee energy transition mandates. Looking ahead, the explosive power demand driven by AI and data centers will create a generational opportunity—one requiring massive investment across conventional generation, renewables, storage, and transmission. Helping clients capture that opportunity will be a central focus for us, and continuing to provide the flexibility to meet evolving client needs will remain a top priority.